

It is a claim which I am convinced will never be favorably listened to by the people of Great Britain.' Continuing, Mr. Redmond said the Irish people would never submit to the mutilation of their country by the partition of Ulster, but there were no lengths to which he and his colleagues would refuse to go to placate and conciliate those men. They said no bitter word against them, and they regarded them as brothers. Those men might seek to repudiate Ireland, but Ireland would never repudiate them.

THE ALLEGED HIBERNIAN OATH.

The abuse of the Ancient Order of Hibernians afforded the Unionists the best ammunition available in their campaign in Great Britain against Home Rule. The Unionist lie factory felt warranted in going further. It issued a vile concoction, purporting to be the oath of the A.O.H., and binding members of the latter to 'wade knee-deep in Orange blood,' and breathing hatred of Protestants as such. This oath has been circulated in millions of leaflets and post-cards. It was quoted by Unionists in the Crewe bye-election last year, and Mr. Joseph Devlin, M.P., the president of the A.O.H., repudiated and condemned it; whereupon, the Tory candidate accepted Mr. Devlin's repudiation and denounced the libel. But the Unionist lie factory went on circulating the libel. Some time ago, Colonel Hickman, a Tory member for Wolverhampton, repeated the libel at Southport. A local Home Ruler forwarded the report of the Colonel's speech to Mr. Devlin, who at once raised the question in the House of Commons. Mr. Devlin denied that any such oath, or any oath whatever, was taken by the members of the A.O.H. Colonel Hickman was not satisfied. He wanted Mr. Devlin to read the A.O.H. 'declaration and obligation.' Mr. Devlin did so, on the following day. Everybody, except members of the A.O.H., was surprised. The 'obligation' was quite innocuous; it insisted upon members doing nothing contrary to law or condemned by the Catholic Church. The answer was complete, and the Speaker's comments and the cheers of the Home Rulers showed how fully the vindication of the A.O.H. was accepted. But, even then, Colonel Hickman was not satisfied. He had not the courtesy to withdraw and make the *amende honorable*. Instead, he tried to dish up old stories about the Ribbonmen. But the Speaker cut him short, and the incident terminated. Will it be believed that the lie is still being circulated by 'Ulster' Unionists?

NEWMAN SOCIETY, AUCKLAND

The first meeting of the Newman Society for the present year was held on Sunday, March 2, in St. Patrick's Schoolroom. The members expressed great regret at the resignation of their president, Mr. N. R. Jacobsen, who has removed to Dannevirke, whither he carries with him the heartiest good wishes of the society for his future success. Miss F. V. J. Jacobsen, M.A., was unanimously elected to fill the vacant position temporarily. Mr. P. J. Kalaugher and Mr. G. Browne were chosen as the society's representatives on the Catholic Federation. On the motion of Mr. D. O'Donohue, a resolution was passed condemning the attitude of the Bible-in-Schools League for trying to impose upon public school teachers the duty of teaching religion in State schools.

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People We Hear About

His Grace Archbishop O'Reily of Adelaide will celebrate the silver jubilee of his consecration on May 1, and the Catholics are making arrangements to honor the occasion. His Grace, who was at one time editor of the *West Australian Record*, which he not only wrote but set in type, has had a very strenuous career. Since his advent to South Australia his work both in the Port Augusta diocese and that of Adelaide has been monumental. It is little wonder that the ordeal has left its mark in impaired health. Archbishop O'Reily is a native of Kilkenny, and is about 66 years of age. He was ordained priest in '69 at All Hallows College, Dublin, and arrived in Western Australia the following year. He was consecrated first Bishop of Port Augusta on May 1, 1888, and translated to the archdiocese of Adelaide in 1895.

The death of the Earl of Ashburnham leaves only four Catholic Earls with seats in the House of Lords, three out of the four being either converts or the sons of converts to the old faith (says the *Glasgow Observer*). They are the Earls of Denbigh and Desmond, of Abingdon, of Gainsborough, and of Westmeath. The last-named sits in the House as an Irish representative peer. Lord Denbigh's father was received into the Church when Viscount Feilding by Bishop Gillis in 1850, together with his wife; Lord Gainsborough's father was received in 1851, the same year as the future Cardinal Manning, James Hope Scott, and other notable converts. The reception of Lord Abingdon, then Lord Norreys, took place seven years later, in 1858. The Scots Earl of Newburgh, who is also a Roman Patrician and Prince Giustiniani Bandini in the Roman States, has no seat in the British House of Lords, though he is qualified to sit and vote if elected a Scotch representative peer. There are still two other Catholic Earls, Lords Bective and Dumfries, little boys who enjoy their titles only by courtesy. Should they survive their respective fathers, they will be entitled in due course to take their seats in the Upper House—supposing that august body still exists by that time—as Marquis of Bute and Marquis of Headfort. Lord Headfort, by the way, is an Irish Marquis, and he actually sits at Westminster under his United Kingdom title of Baron Kenlis.

The London *Times*, in printing the news of the death of the late Lord Ashburnham, furnishes an interesting account of his career and peerage:—Bertram, Earl of Ashburnham and Viscount St. Asaph in the peerage of Great Britain, and Baron Ashburnham in that of England, was born on October 28, 1840. He was the eldest son of the fourth Earl, his mother having been an aunt of the present Earl of Haddington. He was educated at Westminster School and on the Continent, and was received into the Catholic Church in 1872. The first baron's grandfather had been committed to the Tower by Cromwell for aiding King Charles' escape from Hampton Court. The third baron, who had been Gentleman of the Bedchamber to Frederick Prince of Wales, obtained the higher titles. Lord Ashburnham, who was chairman of the British Home Rule Association, presided over one of the earliest public meetings ever held in Great Britain to advocate that policy. For many years he acted as the representative of Don Carlos and the Legitimist Party of Spain in this country. He was senior Knight of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre in Great Britain and representative of the Order, and he had received also the Grand Cross of the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem and the Pontifical Order of Pius. The late peer married in 1888 Emily, daughter of the late Mr. R. Chaplin. Lady Ashburnham died in 1900, leaving one daughter, Lady Mary Catherine Charlotte Ashburnham, who was born in 1890 and is now a nun. Lord Ashburnham's brother John, who had been in the Diplomatic Service, died last April. His next two brothers are also dead, and the title passes to Captain the Hon. Thomas Ashburnham, late 7th Hussars, who is not a Catholic.

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